

Appl. No. 09/560,785
Reply to Office action of May 13, 2003

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method for purchasing a product comprising the steps of:

identifying a plurality of suppliers;

creating an information template for each of the plurality of suppliers wherein each of the information template specifies

specifying a product having at least one and each component disposed within the product;

searching each of the information templates for the specified at least one components component disposed within each the product;

identifying at least one supplier from the plurality of suppliers by use of said search;

causing a design file of said product to be created by performing the steps of

transmitting at least one computerized design file associated with the at least one each component disposed within said product created from each of said identified suppliers from the plurality of suppliers to a purchaser, and

selectively using said at least one transmitted computerized design file associated with the at least one component disposed within said product to create a three dimensional prototype of said product; and

purchasing said at least one component disposed within the product ~~product~~ from said at least one identified supplier from the plurality of suppliers.

Claim 2 (original): The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

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placing certain information on said information template of said identified supplier related to the cost of producing said product; and

reporting said certain information.

Claim 3 (previously amended): The method of Claim 2 further comprising the steps of:

storing said three dimensional prototype of said product within an associated information template database; and

evaluating said design file before purchasing said product.

Claim 4 (original): The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:

creating information relating to the operation of said product; and

placing said information upon said template of said identified supplier.

Claim 5 (original): The method of Claim 1 wherein said product is selectively assembled within a vehicle.

Claim 6 (original): The method of Claim 1 wherein said templates are searched over a global computer network.

Claim 7 (original): The method of Claim 6 wherein said global computer network comprises the internet.

Claim 8 (cancelled)

Claim 9 (cancelled)

Claim 10 (cancelled)

Claim 11 (cancelled)

Claim 12 (cancelled)

Claim 13 (previously amended): A method for purchasing a product comprising the steps of:

fixing attributes of said product having several interconnected components;

decomposing said product into several interconnected components;

identifying a plurality of suppliers;

creating an information template having a dynamically configurable and searchable field wherein the dynamically configurable and searchable field is configured to specify ~~which specifies~~ a plurality of interrelationship attributes related to ~~an~~ the interrelationship of the several interconnected components of said product associated with ~~for~~ each of said plurality of suppliers and wherein the interrelationship attributes of said components further define the overall function of each of the several interconnected components, ~~each of said information templates further containing information identifying the respective products and components provided by the supplier, a cost of producing each of said respectively provided products and components, and the time required to provide each of said respective products and components;~~ and

searching said information templates in order to identify suppliers of said product and said several interconnected components.

Claim 14 (original): The method of Claim 13 further comprising the step of:

identifying at least one supplier of said product by use of said information templates.

Claim 15 (previously amended): The method of Claim 14 further comprising the step of:

identifying at least one supplier from a plurality of suppliers for each of said several interconnected components by use of said information templates.

Claim 16 (previously added): The method of Claim 13, wherein the step of creating the information template further comprises the step of:

specifying a plurality of attributes related to the interrelationship of the product to other products.

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Claim 17: The method of Claim 1, wherein the product having the at least one component disposed within the product is used in an automotive vehicle.

Claim 18 (newly added): The method of claim 1, wherein the product has a plurality of interconnected components disposed therewithin.